

Message Text

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16

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3223

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1283

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SO, ET

SUBJECT: SOMALI THREAT

REF: A) ADDIS 10298 B) MOGADISCIO 1122

1. WE HAVE IN PREVIOUS CABLES GIVEN OUR REASONS AS TO WHY IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SOMALI ARMY WOULD MOVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA WHY SOVIET UNION WOULD DISCOURAGE SUCH AN INITIATIVE AND WHY WE BELIEVE SOMALI THREAT MIGHT BE DISCOUNTED. THERE IS NOTHING IN PRESENT SITUATION WHICH CAUSES US TO ALTER THAT ASSESSMENT, WHICH HAS LESS TO DO WITH REPORTS OF GUERRILLA TRAINING, TROOP MOVEMENTS, ETC., THAN WITH OUR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SIAD'S POLICY GOALS AND THOSE OF SOVIET UNION IN REGION.

2. DESCRIPTION OF OGADEN TRIBESMEN GIVEN IN PARA THREE REFTL A AS QTE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO MAY NOW BE ARMED UNQTE OVERSIMPLIFIES LOCAL SITUATION. OGADEN TRIBESMEN WHO WERE UNDER DETENTION WERE NOT FREEDOM FIGHTERS BUT CRITICS OF SIAD WHO AT TIME OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY WERE USING HIS RESTRAINT ON OGADEN (OR BEING USED BY OTHERS) AS MEANS OF UNDERCUTTING REGIME FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING SIAD'S NEPOTISM OR TRIBALISM AND LOCAL ECONOMIC

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DIFFICULTIES. DETAINEES WERE CONSIDERED ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY AND

POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS TO BOOT.

3. DETAINEES HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED FROM CUSTODY AND TAKEN ELSEWHERE, REPORTEDLY FOR MILITARY TRAINING (MOGADISCIO 1122). WE ARE MUCH LESS SURE THAT TRAINING THEY ARE RECEIVING HAS AN IMMEDIATE

RELEVANCE TO GUERRILLA ACTION IN OGADEN.

4. MILITARY TRAINING IN SOMALIA INVOLVES AN INTENSIVE POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION REGIMEN AS WELL. THIS IS TRUE WHETHER ONE IS TALKING OF CADETS AT CHISIMAYU MILITARY ACADEMY, WHERE SOVIET-LED COURSES IN MARXISM-LENINISM AND RUSSIAN OCCUPY MUCH OF SOMALI CADETS WAKING HOURS, AND OF HALANE, WHERE PARA-MILITARY TRAINING IS OVERPOWERED BY IDEOLOGICAL CONTENT. SIAD HAS ALSO SHOWN THAT HE RELIES HEAVILY ON POLITICAL REEDUCATION WHEN CONFRONTED WITH IDEOLOGICAL BACKSLIDERS

. HE RECENTLY SENT NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO RESETTLEMENT AREAS IN SOUTH TO BETTER UNDERSTAND SOMALI SOCIALIST ETHIC WHEN STUDENTS' QUESTIONS SURFACE REGARDING SOVIET BASE ISSUE AND SURRENDER OF SOMALI SOVEREIGNTY TO USSR.

5. IF OGADEN DETAINEES ARE NOW BEING TRAINED BY SOMALI MILITARY AND SNA FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISORS, THEN WE BELIEVE THAT THEIR TRAINING HAS A MORE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL PURPOSE AND IS INTENDED TO REEDUCATE THEM TO WAYS OF SOMALI REVOLUTION. GUERRILLA TRAINING CONTENT WOULD OF COURSE MAKE THAT POLITICAL EFFORT MORE PALATABLE TO TRAINEES.

6. IN PAST, NORTH KOREANS AND CUBANS HAVE ALLEGEDLY HELPED SNA IN TRAINING GUERRILLA FORCES. SUCH TRAINING IS PART OF BROADER IDEOLOGICAL ACTION PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN TO MOBILIZE MASSES IN DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION AGAINST ITS ENEMIES, IMAGINED OR REAL, AND IS NOT RPT NOT EXCLUSIVELY DIRECTED TOWARDS A SPECIFIC OR LIMITED END, SUCH AS RECOVERY OF OGADEN TERRITORIES. BOTH NORTH KOREANS AND CUBANS ARE GOOD AT SUCH PROGRAMS. SINCE BOTH NORTH KOREANS AND CUBANS SUPPORT SOVIET POSITION IN SOMALIA, WE ASSUME THAT THEY ARE AS RELUCTANT AS USSR TO SEE SOMALIA STIR UP REGIONAL OR CONTINENTAL PROBLEMS IN OGADEN.

7. SINCE BOTH CUBA AND NORTH KOREA HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC SECRET

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RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, WE WOULD ALSO ASSUME THAT THEY NOW HAVE LESS REASON THAN EVER TO BE INVOLVED IN OR IDENTIFIED WITH GUERRILLA TRAINING EFFORT IN SOMALIA TARGETED AGAINST DISPUTED AREAS. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA AND EVOLUTION OF EVENTS THERE APPEAR TO GIVE LESS REASON THAN EVER FOR ANY ACTION AGAINST OGADEN. LOUGHRAN

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NNN

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